

WASHINGTON.

"Liberty and Union, now and forever, one and inseparable."

"SATURDAY, AUGUST 23, 1845."

THE UNION AND THE MEXICAN QUESTION.

"E'en though vanquished he could argue still."

The power of disputation ascribed by Goldsmith to his Village Schoolmaster is thrown into the shade by the endowments of our Official Editor; and his appetite for argument seems as unquenchable as his powers are untiring. Nothing can satisfy or silence him. In the matter of the Texan boundary we called to our aid the emphatic authority of Senator Benton and President Jackson, statesmen of his own party, who, if they never claimed any thing that was wrong, certainly never gave up any thing that was our right. We know, indeed, that the time was when the editor of the Union did not hold the opinions of General Jackson in the highest esteem; but the opinions of President Jackson we thought possessed more weight with him, and when endorsed by those of the distinguished Senator of Missouri, we indulged the hope that they would prove sufficient, if not to settle the boundary, at least to redeem our patriotism in venturing to agree with them. Vain hope. Instead of a graceful acknowledgment that, with authority so high, we had at least "color of right" on our side, the editor plunges into a fresh ocean of invective, and gives us two columns of reply, original and compiled. We would fain follow him through his rejoinder, restate and reinforce our own positions, and answer what is new in his article, if indeed there be any thing new; but it would be a waste of labor upon him and a waste of our space for our readers. If convinced, it would be "against his will." Having, moreover, no relish for argument for argument's sake, it is our custom, when we have said what we have to say on a subject, to let it pass for what it is worth, and drop it. He, "ardent as a southern sun can make him," delights in the lists, and would hark his blade upon any foe sooner than have none.

We requested the editor to combat the expostulations of Messrs. Benton and Jackson of the boundary question, not ours. He replies by citing on his side Messrs. VAN BUREN, FORTYTH, JEFFERSON, MADISON, MONROE, ADAMS, CLAY, and WALKER: a formidable array of names indeed, and worthy of all respect, could they be all truly invoked in the attempt to change the line which Mr. Benton says "divided the ancient Louisiana from New Mexico." But this is not the case. In regard to the opinions of Col. Benton, he replies that he admires our address in bringing up the heavy battery of the Senator from Missouri to our relief; that he respects Col. B. as much as we can; is grateful for his brilliant services, &c.; but prefers not to answer himself the speech of Col. B. of May, 1844, upon which we rely; and therefore will simply republish the reply of Mr. Senator WALKER, which he accordingly subjoins. These are antagonists not unworthy of each other, and we are willing to remit the argument to the arbitrament of their respective speeches.

One word more. The editor of the Union is fond of vaunting his patriotism, and seems to measure that virtue by the extent to which he pushes the claims of his own country and curtails those of others. We do not object to this in the editor of the Union; it is in keeping perhaps with the uncalculating ardor of his nature, and the duties of his official position. But we wish the editor to learn that there is a quality of patriotism less belligerent perhaps, but not less true or less intrepid; and that is the patriotism, not of grasping all that can be got, but in guarding the honor of the country by keeping it in the right; a patriotism that would sacrifice all the wastes between the Mississippi and Cape Horn sooner than wrest one league of territory from a weak neighbor unrighteously, and stand before the impartial world as a wrong-doer and an oppressor.

Extract of a letter from Austin, in Texas, to the editor of the New Orleans Picayune, dated the 23d of July, and received by the mail of Tuesday evening:

"We have literally complied with the terms proposed by the United States. Although many citizens do feel great uneasiness on the subject of boundary, the resolutions of our Congress and our ordinance in Convention yield the settlement of that question to your Government, without restriction. The boundary to the Rio del Norte is not only indispensable to our safety and repose, but to the United States Government. The old boundary was the Nueces, and its line is within thirty miles of San Antonio. The distance thence to the Rio del Norte varies from two to three hundred miles. It is unsettled and uncultivated, except immediately on the bank of that river. And unless we occupy that river, there is no locality for slaves west of the Colorado, which is the finest country we have for cotton, sugar, stock, the ordinary farming pursuits, and health combined. . . . We thought it better for Texas to occupy that position before annexation, and a citizen of the United States generously offered to furnish provisions and munitions of war for the enterprise. Our people were eager for it, when, to blast these hopes, the President's treaty with Mexico and his proclamation for an armistice made its appearance, admitting a disputed boundary, which no Texas had before allowed to be questioned."

THE COTTON CROP.

Extract of a letter to the Editors, dated Montgomery, Alabama, August 14: "Our cotton and cotton crops will be very short in this section this season, in consequence of the long drought we have had. New cotton begins to come in freely. Prices range from six to seven cents."

MANHATTAN REMAINS.—A letter dated at Newburgh, in Orange county, New York, states that the remains of an immense mastodon have recently been discovered and exhumed about six miles west of that place. "This (says the letter) is the fourth skeleton of the mastodon that has been discovered in this county; but while all the others have been imperfect, many of the bones never having been discovered, this one is entire, every bone having been found, even to the small bones of the feet and tail, and in a complete state of preservation—the enamel on the teeth being as perfect as if in the mouth of a living animal. An idea of the size of the monster may be formed when I state that the skull alone weighs seven hundred pounds. The tusks are over nine feet long. Across the hip bones he measures about seven feet. The position of the animal at death was clearly discernible. He had evidently been seized and had settled down on his haunches, with his forelegs spread out, and in this posture he was found."

We assure the Union that it has misapprehended the spirit of the paragraph to which it refers on Tuesday night. In saying that the Union seemed to think that the article in the "Missourian" proceeded from Col. DEXTER, we expressed only the impression which the language of the Union made on us. The Union, it is true, said that the article "most probably originated with the editor of the Missouriian," but in fact naming Col. B. in connection with the article, that gentleman seemed uppermost in the thoughts of the editor, and why introduce it? The volunteering to vindicate Col. B. "agacery" from the authorship of an article which nobody had ascribed to him, led us to the impression that the editor thought it possible he was the author.

THE TWENTY-NINTH CONGRESS.

The New York Journal of Commerce gives a list of the 29th Congress, from which we have prepared the following analysis:

There will be (including Florida) fifty-four members of the Senate, of whom four have yet to be appointed. Of the fifty actual members at this day twenty-four are Whigs and twenty-six are Democrats. The four to be appointed—viz. one each from Virginia, Mississippi, Indiana, and Tennessee—will most probably be Democrats, making the Senate, when full, to consist of twenty-four Whigs and thirty Democrats.

The term of service of twelve Whigs and five Democrats expires in 1847; of four Whigs and thirteen Democrats in 1849; of eight Whigs and six Democrats in 1851.

Three of the four to be elected will hold office until 1851; the fourth, from Mississippi, (in place of Mr. Walker,) until 1847. The Senators from Florida have not yet been elected.

The House of Representatives has all been elected with the exception of the six members from Maryland and the four from Mississippi—and four vacancies, one each from Florida, Massachusetts, Maine, and New Hampshire. There are also two vacancies from death—one in New Jersey and one in Louisiana. We give a statement of the political character of the House so far as elected, and a comparison in the same point of view with the former Congress. The States are arranged in the order in which the elections took place:

STATES.	28th Congress.		29th Congress.	
	Whigs.	Democrats.	Whigs.	Democrats.
Louisiana	—	4	1	—
Illinois	1	6	1	6
Missouri	2	5	1	5
Vermont	2	1	1	1
Maine	2	4	1	5
Georgia	2	6	4	4
Pennsylvania	12	12	10	12
Ohio	9	12	8	13
South Carolina	—	7	—	7
Arkansas	—	1	—	1
New York	10	24	9	4
New Jersey	1	4	3	1
Michigan	1	3	—	3
Massachusetts	8	1	9	—
Delaware	1	1	—	1
Rhode Island	2	—	2	—
New Hampshire	3	—	3	—
Virginia	3	12	1	14
Connecticut	—	4	4	—
Indiana	2	8	4	—
Kentucky	5	5	7	3
Tennessee	5	6	5	6
North Carolina	4	5	3	6
Alabama	1	6	1	6
Vacancies. Totals.	71	139	75	6 127

Showing a Whig gain of five, and a Democratic loss of twelve. Of the members who voted for Mr. McKay's bill for the alteration of the Tariff at the last session of Congress, and were candidates for re-election, thirteen have been superseded, of whom twelve have been succeeded by Whigs and Natives. Of those who voted against it, and were candidates for re-election, sixteen are superseded, of whom nine have been succeeded by Whigs and Natives.

LATE FROM MEXICO.

FROM THE NEW ORLEANS TROPIC, EXTRA, OF AUGUST 14.

We hasten to lay before the readers of the Tropic the latest news from Mexico. The *Water Witch* left Vera Cruz on the 5th instant, and arrived here between five and six o'clock this morning. It seems that, after all the gasconading despatches of the Mexican Minister, a declaration of war is now very doubtful. Our prompt and intelligent correspondent tells the whole story:

VERA CRUZ, AUGUST 4, 1845.

The election of a new President commenced on the 1st instant, for which there are four candidates—say, General Herrera, President ad interim; General Almonte, ex-Mexican Minister at Washington; Gomez Farias, and one other whose name has escaped my memory. The Presidency, however, seems to lay between the two former, one of whom it is supposed will be the successful candidate.

Almonte has offered his services to the Government in the approaching campaign against Texas.

The British brig of war *Persian* arrived here on the 27th ultimo, in seven days from Galveston, bringing the news of the annexation of Texas being confirmed by President Jones, and also that a body of United States troops, say about 4,000 men, were expected at Galveston in the course of a few days.

It appears now that our Government is in no hurry to declare war against the United States; or, at any rate, it seems to be the general opinion that she will merely attempt to reconquer Texas without making any declaration of war. Of course the news by the *Persian* caused a great excitement throughout the country. The Ministry has presented an act to the two Chambers for their deliberation—

1st. To declare war against the United States.

2d. Authorizing them to raise a foreign or national loan to the amount of five millions of dollars, which they consider to be requisite to carry on a war and reconquer Texas.

The proposals are now under discussion in the Chambers, and if they get the "largest" there is no doubt they will make the attempt to again get possession, though it is doubtful whether they declare war against the United States or not.

The tariff question is still under discussion, or rather has been referred to a committee; but if they procrastinate as they generally do, God knows when we shall get sight of the long-expected document; and in the mean time the country will lose a great deal, as merchants do not like to ship with so much uncertainty.

AUGUST 5.—The *Water Witch* not sailing yesterday, I open to say that we have no news from the American squadron, but it is thought here that it will soon appear.

Rumors were brought by the above arrival of the march towards Texas of 10,000 Mexican troops, but these reports are not confirmed by the Mexican newspapers.

A letter received by a commercial house at New Orleans says that the differences existing between the United States and Mexico "may eventually lead to a war," and that "it will be very difficult to raise the sum" demanded to carry on a war. The writer is "therefore still in hopes that the difficulties in question will be peaceably adjusted, and the commercial intercourse remain undisturbed."

Another letter says that "although our Government has communicated to the Chambers a declaration of war against the United States, yet it appears that no such formal step will be taken, but measures will be adopted to raise and equip a sufficient force to march upon Texas, and to do the utmost to reconquer that territory."

On Monday evening last an affray took place at the corner of Pennsylvania avenue and Fourteenth street west, between Mr. WILLIAM J. KENDALL, son of Hon. ANSON KENDALL, Mr. JOSHUA R. BAILEY, printer, and Mr. WILLIAM RUFUS ELLIOT, in which Elliot, who was armed with a six barreled revolving pistol, shot Kendall dead and severely wounded Bailey in the arm. He then escaped through Fuller's Hotel, obtained a hack, and went to the house of Mr. George Parker, on C street, where, by the advice of his friends, he surrendered himself. After a careful and patient investigation of the circumstances which led to this unfortunate result, the examining court refused to admit the accused to bail for the first offence, and held him to bail in the sum of \$3,000 for the latter.

NORTH CAROLINA ELECTION.

We are at length assured by the Raleigh Register that the Congressional election in North Carolina has resulted in the choice of the following Representatives: JAMES GRAHAM, ALFRED DOCKERY, DANIEL M. BARRINGER, WHIGS; DAVID S. REID, JAMES C. DOBBIN, JOHN R. J. DANIEL, JAMES J. MCKAY, HENRY S. CLARK, ASA BIGGS, LOCOFOS. In the last Congress there were four Whigs; so that we have lost one member—in Mr. RAYNER'S district, by little more than a hundred votes.

The Register remarks that the foregoing result shows in strong colors the outrageous character of the gerrymander perpetrated by the Locofoco majority in the Legislature of 1842, when, with such an exhibit of an election as the above, we could yet, to-morrow, if we had the chance, elect a Whig Governor by four or five thousand majority.

TENNESSEE ELECTION.

We have received sufficient returns from Tennessee to authorize the announcement of the following as the Members of Congress elect: WM. E. COCKE, JOHN H. CROZIER, MEREDITH P. GENTRY, JOSEPH H. PRYTON, MILTON BROWN, WHIGS; ANDREW JOHNSON, ALVAN CULLOM, GEORGE W. JONES, BARCLAY MARTIN, L. B. CHASE, F. P. STAUNTON, LOCOS; the political division of parties being five to six, the same as in the last Congress.

We have before expressed our fears of the defeat of the Whig candidate for Governor in this State. Later accounts confirm these apprehensions. Mr. AARON V. BROWN is elected, though by what majority is not yet known—probably about two thousand votes. The Nashville Whig attributes this result to the apathy of the Whig party, and thinks that the entire vote of the State will fall short of that of last year by twenty thousand or upwards. The Legislature is also lost, by a very small majority; so that our friends have only retained their former position so far as regards the number of Representatives whom they have elected to Congress.

THE KENTUCKY ELECTION.

It is ascertained that the Whigs have carried seven out of the ten Congressional districts of Kentucky—being a gain of two Representatives in Congress. The names of the Members elect are: JOHN H. MCKENRY, HENRY GRIDER, JOS. F. BELL, BRYAN R. YOUNG, WM. P. THOMASSON, GARRETT DAVIS, AND. TREMBO, WHIGS; JAMES P. MARTIN, LYNN BOYD and JOHN W. TIBBATS, DEMOCRATS. The Legislature is largely Whig, of course. The sixth district was very imprudently lost by the Whigs. This is the strongest Whig district in Kentucky, and is to be represented in the next Congress by a member of opposite politics, on account of an unfortunate division in the Whig ranks, which induced them to run two candidates. The united vote for Adams and McKee, the Whig candidates, is 6,855, and for Martin 4,059—showing a Whig majority of 2,796; and yet, whilst three other districts in this State have been nobly redeemed, this one has been lost!

ALABAMA ELECTION.

With the exception of some ten or twelve counties, we have reports of the vote for Governor throughout the entire State of Alabama, which render the election of JOSHUA L. MARTIN, over NATHANIEL TERRY, the regular candidate of the Locofoco party, by from two to three thousand majority. The majority for HENRY W. HILLIARD, the Whig Representative to Congress from the second district, is upwards of one hundred and fifty votes.

IOWA ELECTION.

An election was held in the Territory of Iowa on the 4th instant, for a Delegate to Congress, and (pursuant to an act of the Legislative Council) to test again the popular sentiment with regard to the acceptance of a State Government, with the restricted boundaries prescribed in the act of the last Congress. The returns indicate the re-election of A. C. DODGE to Congress, but the adoption of the Constitution is doubtful.

NATAL PREPARATIONS.—We learn from the Union that the frigate *Potomac*, which lately returned to Pensacola in consequence of a leak, needs no repairs which cannot be made at Pensacola; she is probably already nearly in order for going to sea. The *Marion*, at Boston, is nearly ready. The Congress, at Norfolk, will be ready in about two weeks, and will sail for the Pacific, under Captain Stockton. The *Columbia*, at Norfolk, and the *United States*, at Boston, (both frigates), will, as a reserve force, be ready for sea, the one in thirty, the other in forty days, if needed. The brig *Dolphin*, at Norfolk, is ready for sea, as also the sloop *Dale*.

It is to be hoped (remarks the Union) there will be no occasion for employing any part of this additional force; but it is due to our commerce to be prepared to protect it. The necessary orders for the Pacific station were forwarded long ago. The *Cyane* will be a valuable aid to our squadron in that ocean; and, with the returning *East India* squadron, and the Constitution, our commerce in that quarter seems, for the present, safe enough. There is no doubt that the Administration is taking every precautionary measure to meet any contingency which may occur. It is throwing troops into Texas, and providing arms and rations for any additional force which the Texans may bring to our aid. We are collecting strong squadrons in the Gulf and in the Pacific. If Mexico should be mad enough to declare war, and attack us, we shall be prepared to meet her at once.

TROOPS FOR TEXAS.—Gen. WORTH, the commanding officer at St. Augustine, has received orders to send three companies of United States troops from that post to New Orleans.

TROPICAL STORM.—A most fearful storm of thunder and lightning took place at the town of Holguin, island of Cuba, on the 4th ultimo, killing fifteen persons in the town, in and near the public square. The greatest loss of life was, however, in the vicinity of the town, amounting, in some accounts, to between forty and fifty-five. At St. Jago the heat had been, and continued intense; great numbers of persons had died from the effects of the sun. The drought continued in that part of the island in all its previous intensity.

THE OREGON EMIGRANTS.—The St. Joseph Gazette, published in Missouri, states that another company of Oregon emigrants, containing fifteen men and thirty-five women, have lost their way, and despair of getting on this season. They were about eight hundred miles above Council Bluffs, on the Missouri river, and are planting buckwheat with the expectation of obtaining provisions on which they may resume their journey next spring.

Some twenty thousand barrels of flour have been taken in New York for the English market, in fulfillment of orders brought out by the last steamer.

A very tolerable *Potomac* shad, twenty-two inches long, was caught at Ramsay's wharf, at this place, on Thursday afternoon. This is considered, by the fishermen, a singular occurrence. Though "a native and to the river born," as it were, he looked, metaphorically as well as literally, when hauled up, like "a fish out of water." It is supposed that this shad must have overstepped himself up or about the Falls of the Potomac, and, waking up, and finding all of his companions gone, came floating down the river to the fish wharf here to ask as to their whereabouts. He missed his way a little, and was caught by a tartar.—*Alexandria Gazette*.

THE NOTE OF PREPARATION.

The following Circular and list of questions from the Secretary of the Treasury appeared in the Official paper on the 16th instant, and we insert them for the information of our readers. They are, without any comment of ours, sufficiently indicative of the intention of the Executive. That intention is, of course, a modification and reduction of the Tariff. Some objection has been made to the inquisitorial character of these inquiries; but, as they are not to be answered on compulsion, we are not disposed to arraign the proceeding on that ground. We incline to think, however, that the information which they will elicit will be any thing but full and correct. Those who can give correct information will be apt to question the right to require it, and those who do respond will probably give nothing which can form a safe guide for any legislative action on a subject so delicate and so important as a re-arrangement and reduction of the Tariff. Were all the questions fully and satisfactorily answered, or the major part of them, they would doubtless embody a mass of valuable statistical information, although we should hope not to see it employed in the evil purpose of breaking down the Protective System.

(CIRCULAR.)

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, JULY 10, 1845.

Sir: I send you several copies of questions heretofore provided by the Treasury Department, with a view to obtain information in regard to the tariff.

You will please obtain answers to these questions from reliable sources, so as to have the answers here by the first of October next.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. J. WALKER,
Secretary of the Treasury.

1. State and county in which the manufactory is situated?
2. Kind or description of the manufactory, and whether steam, wind, or other power?
3. When established; and whether a joint-stock concern?
4. Capital invested in ground and buildings, and water power, and in machinery?
5. Amount of articles annually manufactured since the establishment of the manufactory; description, quality, and value of each kind?
6. Quantity and value of different kinds of raw materials; distinguishing between foreign products and domestic products?
7. Cost in the United States of similar articles of manufacture imported from abroad, and from what countries?
8. Number of men, women, and children employed, and average wages of each class?
9. How many hours a day employed, and what portion of the day?
10. Rate of wages of similar classes otherwise employed in the same State and county, in other States, and in foreign countries?
11. Number of horses or other animals employed?
12. Whether the manufactory finds a market at the manufactory, if not, how far they are sent to a market?
13. Whether foreign articles of the like kind enter into competition with them at such place of sale; and to what extent?
14. Where are the manufactures consumed?
15. Whether any of the manufactures are exported to foreign countries, and, if so, where?
16. Whether the manufactory is sold by the manufacturer for cash; and, if on credit, at what price? if bartered, for what?
17. Whether the cost of the manufactured article (to the manufacturer) has increased or decreased, and how much, in each year, from the establishment of the manufactory; and whether the increase has been in the materials or the labor, and at what rate?
18. The prices at which the manufactures have been sold by the manufacturer since the establishment?
19. What rate of duty is necessary to enable the manufacturer to enter into competition in the home market with similar articles imported?
20. Is there any change necessary in levying or collecting the duty on such articles to prevent fraud?
21. What has been the rate of your profits annually for the last three years; and, if it be a joint-stock company, what dividends have been received, and what portion of the income of the company has been converted into fixed capital, or retained as a fund for contingent or other objects, and therefore not divided out annually?
22. What portion of the cost of your manufactures consists of the price of the raw material, what portion of the wages of labor, and what portion of the profits of capital?
23. What amount of the agricultural productions of the country is consumed in your establishment, and what amount of other domestic productions?
24. What quantity or amount of manufactures, such as you make, are produced in the United States, and what amount in your own State?
25. If the duty upon the foreign manufacture of the kind of goods which you make were reduced to twelve and a half per cent., with a corresponding reduction on all the imports, would it cause you to abandon your business, or would you continue to manufacture at reduced prices?
26. If it would cause you to abandon your business, in what way would you employ your capital?
27. Is there any pursuit in which you could engage from which you could derive greater profits, even after a reduction of the import duties to twelve and a half per cent.?
28. Are not the manufactures of salt and iron, remote from the points of importation, out of foreign competition, within a certain circle around them; and what is the extent of that circle?
29. Amount of capital, and what proportion the borrowed capital bears to that which is real?
30. What amount of reduction in the duties would enable the foreign or real capital employed to yield an interest of five per cent.; and how gradual the reduction should be?
31. If minimums should be abolished, and the duty assessed upon the actual value of the imported article in the American port, what rate of ad valorem duty would be equivalent to the present with the minimum?
32. What would be the operation of this change upon the frauds at present apposed to be practised?
33. Proportion which the production by the American manufacturer bears to the consumption?
34. Extent of individual and household manufactures in your State, and how much it has increased since the tariff of 1842?
35. Average profit of money or capital in the United States.
36. Average rate of wages?

MEXICO.

SEÑOR ARRANGOIZ, the late Mexican Consul at New Orleans, sailed from that place for Vera Cruz on Saturday, the 9th instant. We learn from the Tropic that the instructions from his Government left the period of the departure of the Consul wholly to his own discretion. The instructions were predicated, not upon a declaration of war, but upon the present unsettled relations between the two countries. Previous to his departure he addressed the subjoined brief circular to his countrymen in the United States:

MEXICAN CONSULATE,
NEW ORLEANS, AUGUST 8, 1845.

By order of his excellency the President of the Republic, I inform the Mexican citizens residing in the United States that his Excellency has determined that this consulate be closed, and that I return to Mexico, taking with me my archives, in consequence of the state of our relations with the United States. In compliance with this order, I will this day close my office, and will sail to-morrow for Vera Cruz on board the Mexican schooner *Relampago*.

RETURN OF THE FRIGATE *POTOMAC*.—The following is an extract from a letter from a midshipman on board the *Potomac*:

"We arrived here last night, and are now lying outside of the harbor. We left Pensacola on the 29th ultimo for Vera Cruz. This is considered, by the fishermen, a singular occurrence. Though 'a native and to the river born,' as it were, he looked, metaphorically as well as literally, when hauled up, like 'a fish out of water.' It is supposed that this shad must have overstepped himself up or about the Falls of the Potomac, and, waking up, and finding all of his companions gone, came floating down the river to the fish wharf here to ask as to their whereabouts. He missed his way a little, and was caught by a tartar.—*Alexandria Gazette*."

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LATER FROM TEXAS.

The cutter *Woodbury*, which left Aransas on the 6th and Galveston on the 10th, has arrived at New Orleans. Major DONELSON came passenger in her.

The United States steamer *Monmouth* had arrived at Aransas in a leaking condition, so bad that the pumps were going continually to keep her afloat.</